109TH CONGRESS 2D SESSION

H. R. 6392

To provide for the construction and rehabilitation of child care facilities in areas of the Gulf Coast affected by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 6, 2006

Mr. Jefferson introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Financial Services

A BILL

To provide for the construction and rehabilitation of child care facilities in areas of the Gulf Coast affected by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

- 1 Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-
- 2 tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,
- 3 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.
- 4 This Act may be cited as the "Emergency Gulf Coast
- 5 Child Care Construction and Rebuilding Act".
- 6 SEC. 2. CONGRESSIONAL FINDINGS.
- 7 The Congress finds that—
- 8 (1) the Bureau of the Census has reported that,
- 9 before Hurricane Katrina occurred, there were in
- New Orleans—

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county's licensed child care capacity, were damaged

1	beyond repair and another 39 percent of centers
2	needed repairs;
3	(6) before Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, New
4	Orleans had 1,912 day care slots at 266 licensed
5	child care centers, but now 75 percent of those slots
6	and 80 percent of those centers are gone;
7	(7) studies have determined that—
8	(A) 33 of 61 neighborhoods in New Orle-
9	ans lost all their licensed day care centers;
10	(B) another 19 neighborhoods lost at least
11	some day care slots; and
12	(C) several neighborhoods completely lack-
13	ing licensed child care have already shown
14	strong signs of recovery, including Bywater and
15	Broadmoor, while areas such as Central City,
16	Mid-City, and Uptown have lost 60 percent or
17	more of their centers;
18	(8) only 55 child care centers were open in New
19	Orleans at the end of September 2006 and of those
20	10 participated in the Federal Head Start program,
21	which is one-third the participation level pre-
22	Katrina;
23	(9) a recent study found that the New Orleans
24	still lacks any coordinated plan for returning child
25	care to neighborhoods that need it most; and

1	(10) studies have stated that the most effective
2	way to rebuild the child care infrastructure is to
3	help child care programs in the disaster area reopen
4	as rapidly as is safe, by giving priority to licensed
5	early childhood facilities and by recruiting, training,
6	and retaining child-care professionals.
7	SEC. 3. USE OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK
8	GRANTS TO ESTABLISH CHILD CARE FACILI-
9	TIES IN THE GULF COAST.
10	Section 105(a) of the Housing and Community De-
11	velopment Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5305(a)) is amended—
12	(1) in paragraph (24), by striking "and" at the
13	end;
14	(2) in paragraph (25), by striking the period at
15	the end and inserting "; and; and
16	(3) by adding at the end the following:
17	"(26) the construction and rebuilding of child
18	care facilities that are located in any area for which
19	the President declared that a major disaster exists,
20	in accordance with section 401 of the Robert T.
21	Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance
22	Act (42 U.S.C. 5170), as a consequence of Hurri-
23	cane Katrina or Rita of 2005 "

1	SEC. 4. INSURANCE FOR MORTGAGES ON NEW AND REHA-
2	BILITATED CHILD CARE FACILITIES IN THE
3	GULF COAST.
4	Title II of the National Housing Act (12 U.S.C. 1707
5	et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:
6	"SEC. 257. MORTGAGE INSURANCE FOR CHILD CARE FA-
7	CILITIES IN THE GULF COAST.
8	"(a) Definitions.—In this section:
9	"(1) CHILD CARE FACILITY.—The term 'child
10	care facility'—
11	"(A) means a public or private facility
12	that—
13	"(i) has as its purpose the care and
14	development of—
15	"(I) children who are less than
16	16 years of age; or
17	"(II) school-age children and
18	youth during non-school hours; and
19	"(ii) is operated in accordance with all
20	applicable State and local laws and regula-
21	tions; and
22	"(B) does not include any facility for
23	school-age children that is primarily for use
24	during normal school hours.
25	"(2) Equipment.—The term 'equipment' in-
26	cludes—

1	"(A) machinery, utilities, and built-in
2	equipment, and any necessary enclosure or
3	structure to house them; and
4	"(B) any other items necessary for the
5	functioning of a particular facility as a child
6	care facility, including necessary furniture,
7	books, and curricular and program materials.
8	"(3) First mortgage.—The term 'first mort-
9	gage'—
10	"(A) means such classes of first liens as
11	are commonly given to secure advances (includ-
12	ing advances during construction) on, or the
13	unpaid purchase price of, real estate under the
14	laws of the State in which the real estate is lo-
15	cated, together with the credit instrument or in-
16	struments (if any) secured thereby; and
17	"(B) includes any mortgage in the form of
18	1 or more trust mortgages or mortgage inden-
19	tures or deeds of trust, securing notes, bonds,
20	or other credit instruments, that, by the same
21	instrument or by a separate instrument, creates
22	a security interest in initial equipment, whether
23	or not attached to the realty.
24	"(4) Mortgage.—The term 'mortgage' means
25	a first mortgage on real estate in fee simple, or on

1	the interest of either the lessor or lessee thereof					
2	under a lease having a period of not less than 7					
3	years to run beyond the maturity date of the mort-					
4	gage.					
5	"(5) Mortgagor.—The term 'mortgagor' has					
6	the meaning given the term in section 207(a).					
7	"(b) Insurance of Mortgages.—In order to facili					
8	tate the establishment and rehabilitation of child care fa-					
9	cilities, the Secretary may—					
10	"(1) insure a mortgage that is secured by a					
11	property or project that is—					
12	"(A) a new child care facility, including a					
13	new addition to an existing child care facility					
14	(regardless of whether the existing facility is					
15	being rehabilitated), that meets the require-					
16	ments of subsection (c); or					
17	"(B) a substantially rehabilitated child					
18	care facility, including equipment to be used in					
19	the operation of the facility, that meets the re-					
20	quirements of subsection (c); and					
21	"(2) make a commitment to insure any mort-					
22	gage described in paragraph (1) before the date of					
23	execution or disbursement of the mortgage.					
24	"(c) Terms and Conditions.—					

1	"(1) ELIGIBLE CHILD CARE FACILITIES.—Each
2	mortgage insured under this section shall be secured
3	by a child care facility that meets the following re-
4	quirements:
5	"(B) LOCATION IN GULF COAST.—The fa-
6	cility is located, or to be located, in an area for
7	which the President declared that a major dis-
8	aster exists, in accordance with section 401 of
9	the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and
10	Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170), as
11	a consequence of Hurricane Katrina or Rita of
12	2005.
13	"(A) COMPLIANCE WITH STANDARDS.—
14	The facility complies with any laws, standards,
15	and requirements applicable to such facilities
16	under the laws of the State, municipality, or
17	other unit of general local government in which
18	the facility is or is to be located.
19	"(2) Approved Mortgagor.—
20	"(A) In General.—Each mortgage in-
21	sured under this section shall be executed by a
22	mortgagor approved by the Secretary.
23	"(B) REGULATION.—The Secretary may—
24	"(i) require an approved mortgagor
25	who executes a mortgage under subpara-

1	graph (A) to be regulated with respect to
2	charges and methods of financing and, if
3	the mortgagor is a corporate entity, with
4	respect to capital structure and rate of re-
5	turn; and
6	"(ii) as an aid to the regulation of any
7	mortgagor under clause (i), make such
8	contracts with and acquire for not more
9	than \$100 such stock or interest in such
10	mortgagor as the Secretary considers to be
11	necessary.
12	"(C) STOCK OR INTEREST.—Any stock or
13	interest purchased under subparagraph (B)(ii)
14	shall be—
15	"(i) paid for out of the General Insur-
16	ance Fund; and
17	"(ii) redeemed by the mortgagor at
18	par upon the termination of all obligations
19	of the Secretary under the insurance.
20	"(3) Principal obligation.—Each mortgage
21	insured under this section shall involve a principal
22	obligation in an amount not to exceed 90 percent of
23	the estimated value of the property or project, or 95
24	percent of the estimated value of the property or
25	project in the case of a mortgagor that is a private

1	nonprofit corporation or association (as defined pur-
2	suant to section 221(d)(3)), including—
3	"(A) equipment to be used in the operation
4	of the facility when the proposed improvements
5	are completed and the equipment is installed; or
6	"(B) a solar energy system (as defined in
7	subparagraph (3) of the last paragraph of sec-
8	tion 2(a)) or residential energy conservation
9	measures (as defined in subparagraphs (A)
10	through (G) and (I) of section 210(11) of the
11	National Energy Conservation Policy Act), in
12	cases in which the Secretary determines that
13	such measures are in addition to those required
14	under the minimum property standards and will
15	be cost-effective over the life of the measure.
16	"(4) Amortization and interest.—Each
17	mortgage insured under this section shall—
18	"(A) provide for complete amortization by
19	periodic payments under such terms as the Sec-
20	retary shall prescribe;
21	"(B) have a maturity date satisfactory to
22	the Secretary, but in no event longer than 40
23	years; and
24	"(C) bear interest at such rate as may be
25	agreed upon by the mortgagor and the mort-

gagee, and the Secretary shall not issue any regulations or establish any terms or conditions that interfere with the ability of the mortgagor and mortgagee to determine the interest rate.

- "(5) Release.—The Secretary may consent to the release of a part or parts of the mortgaged property or project from the lien of any mortgage insured under this section upon such terms and conditions as the Secretary may prescribe.
- 10 "(6) MORTGAGE INSURANCE TERMS.—Sub11 sections (d), (e), (g), (h), (i), (j), (k), (l), and (n) of
 12 section 207 apply to any mortgage insured under
 13 this section, except that all references in such sub14 sections to section 207 shall be construed, for pur15 poses of mortgage insurance under this section, to
 16 refer to this section.
- 17 "(d) Mortgage Insurance for Fire Safety 18 Equipment Loans.—
- "(1) AUTHORITY.—The Secretary may, upon such terms and conditions as the Secretary may prescribe, make commitments to insure and insure loans made by financial institutions or other approved mortgagees to child care facilities to provide for the purchase and installation of fire safety equipment necessary for compliance with the 1967 edition

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1	of the Life Safety Code of the National Fire Protec-
2	tion Association (or any subsequent edition specified
3	by the Secretary of Health and Human Services).
4	"(2) Loan requirements.—To be eligible for
5	insurance under this subsection a loan shall—
6	"(A) not exceed the estimate by the Sec-
7	retary of the reasonable cost of the equipment
8	fully installed;
9	"(B) bear interest at such rate as may be
10	agreed upon by the mortgagor and the mort-
11	gagee;
12	"(C) have a maturity date satisfactory to
13	the Secretary;
14	"(D) be made by a financial institution or
15	other mortgagee approved by the Secretary as
16	eligible for insurance under section 2 or a mort-
17	gagee approved under section 203(b)(1);
18	"(E) comply with other such terms, condi-
19	tions, and restrictions as the Secretary may
20	prescribe; and
21	"(F) be made with respect to a child care
22	facility for which a certification of compliance
23	has been issued by the Secretary under section
24	258(c) during the 12-month period preceding

1 the date on which the commitment to insure is 2 issued under this subsection. 3 "(3) Insurance requirements.— 4 "(A) Section 2.—Subsections (c), (d), and (h) of section 2 shall apply to any loan in-6 sured under this subsection, except that all ref-7 erences in such subsections to 'this section' or 8 'this title' shall be construed, for purposes of 9 this subsection, to refer to this subsection. "(B) Section 220.—Paragraphs (5), (6), 10 11 (7), (9), and (10) of section 220(h) shall apply 12 to any loan insured under this subsection, ex-13 cept that all references in such paragraphs to 14 home improvement loans shall be construed, for 15 purposes of this subsection, to refer to loans 16 under this subsection. 17 "(e) Schedules and Deadlines.—The Secretary 18 shall establish schedules and deadlines for the processing 19 and approval (or provision of notice of disapproval) of applications for mortgage insurance under this section. 21 "(f) Limitation on Insurance Authority.— 22 "(1) TERMINATION.—No mortgage may be in-23 sured under this section or section 223(h) after De-24 cember 30, 2008, except pursuant to a commitment 25 to insure issued on or before such date.

1	"(2)	AGGREGATE	PRINCIPAL	AMOUNT	LIMITA-
2	TION.—				

- "(A) IN GENERAL.—The aggregate principal amount of mortgages for which the Secretary enters into commitments to insure under this section or section 223(h) on or before the date described in paragraph (1) may not exceed \$100,000,000.
- "(B) Report.—If, on the date described in paragraph (1), the aggregate insurance authority provided under this paragraph has not been fully used, the Secretary of the Treasury shall submit to Congress a report evaluating the need for continued mortgage insurance under this section.

"(g) Nondiscrimination Requirement.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—A child care facility receiving assistance under this title may not discriminate on the basis of race, color, or national origin (to the extent provided in title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000d et seq.)), religion (subject to subparagraph (B)), national origin, sex (to the extent provided in title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (20 U.S.C. 1681 et seq.)), or disability (to the extent provided in section 504 of the

- Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 794)), under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance under this title.
- 4 "(2) Facilities of religious ORGANIZA-5 TIONS.—The prohibition with respect to religion 6 under paragraph (1) shall not apply to a child care 7 facility that is controlled by, or that is closely identi-8 fied with, the tenets of a particular religious organi-9 zation, if the application of this paragraph would not 10 be consistent with the religious tenets of such orga-11 nization.
- "(h) LIABILITY INSURANCE.—A child care provider operating a child care facility assisted under this section or section 223(h) shall obtain and maintain liability insurance in such amounts and subject to such requirements as the Secretary considers to be appropriate.

17 "(i) SMALL PURPOSE LOANS.—

- "(1) IN GENERAL.—To the extent that amounts are made available pursuant to subsection (l), the Secretary shall make loans, directly or indirectly, to providers of child care facilities for reconstruction or renovation of such facilities, in accordance with this subsection.
- 24 "(2) REQUIREMENTS.—A loan under this sub-25 section—

1	"(A) may be made only for a child care fa-
2	cility that is financially and operationally viable,
3	as determined under standards established by
4	the Secretary;
5	"(B) may not have a term to maturity ex-
6	ceeding 7 years;
7	"(C) shall bear interest at a rate estab-
8	lished by the Secretary; and
9	"(D) shall be subject to such other terms
10	and conditions as the Secretary may establish
11	by regulation.
12	"(3) Aggregate loan amount.—The aggre-
13	gate amount of loans under this subsection to a sin-
14	gle provider may not exceed \$100,000.
15	"(j) Notification.—The Secretary shall take such
16	actions as may be necessary to publicize the availability
17	of the programs for mortgage insurance under this section
18	and section 223(h), and the loan program under sub-
19	section (i) of this section, in a manner that ensures that
20	information concerning such programs will be available to
21	child care providers throughout the United States.
22	"(k) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary shall—
23	"(1) issue any regulations necessary to carry
24	out this section; and

1	"(2) in carrying out paragraph (1), consult with
2	the Secretary of Health and Human Services with
3	respect to any aspects of the regulations regarding
4	child care facilities.
5	"(l) Authorization of Appropriations.—There is
6	authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
7	\$10,000,000 for fiscal year 2006, 2007, and 2008, to re-
8	main available until expended, of which not more than 3
9	percent may be used for loans under subsection (i).".
10	SEC. 5. INSURANCE FOR MORTGAGES FOR ACQUISITION OR
11	REFINANCING DEBT OF EXISTING CHILD
12	CARE FACILITIES IN THE GULF COAST.
13	(a) In General.—Section 223 of the National
14	Housing Act (12 U.S.C. 1715n) is amended by adding at
15	the end the following:
16	"(h) Mortgage Insurance for Purchase or Re-
17	FINANCING OF EXISTING CHILD CARE FACILITIES IN THE
18	GULF COAST.—
19	"(1) Definitions.—In this subsection, the
20	terms that are defined in section 257(a) have the
21	same meanings as provided in that section.
22	"(2) AUTHORITY.—Notwithstanding any other
23	provision of this Act, the Secretary may insure
24	under any section of this title a mortgage executed
25	in connection with—

1	"(A) the purchase or refinancing of an ex-
2	isting child care facility that is located in an
3	area for which the President declared that a
4	major disaster exists, in accordance with section
5	401 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief
6	and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C.
7	5170), as a consequence of Hurricane Katrina
8	or Rita of 2005;
9	"(B) the purchase of a structure located in
10	such an area to serve as a child care facility; or
11	"(C) the refinancing of existing debt of an
12	existing child care facility located in such an
13	area.
14	"(3) Purchase of existing facilities and
15	STRUCTURES.—In the case of the purchase under
16	this subsection of an existing child care facility or
17	purchase of an existing structure to serve as such a
18	facility, the Secretary shall prescribe any terms and
19	conditions that the Secretary considers necessary to
20	ensure that—
21	"(A) the facility or structure purchased
22	continues to be used as a child care facility; and
23	"(B) the facility complies with any laws,
24	standards, and requirements applicable to such
25	facilities under the laws of the State, munici-

1	pality, or other unit of general local government
2	in which the facility is or is to be located.
3	"(4) Refinancing of existing facilities.—
4	In the case of refinancing of an existing child care
5	facility, the Secretary shall prescribe any terms and
6	conditions that the Secretary considers necessary to
7	ensure that—
8	"(A) the refinancing is used to lower the
9	monthly debt service costs (taking into account
10	any fees or charges connected with such refi-
11	nancing) of the existing facility;
12	"(B) the proceeds of any refinancing will
13	be employed only to retire the existing indebted-
14	ness and pay the necessary cost of refinancing
15	on the existing facility;
16	"(C) the existing facility is economically
17	viable; and
18	"(D) the facility complies with any laws
19	standards, and requirements applicable to such
20	facilities under the laws of the State, munici-
21	pality, or other unit of general local government
22	in which the facility is or is to be located.
23	"(5) Limitation on insurance authority.—
24	The authority of the Secretary to enter into commit-

1	ments to insure mortgages under this subsection is
2	subject to section 257(f).".
3	SEC. 6. STUDY OF AVAILABILITY OF SECONDARY MARKETS
4	FOR MORTGAGES ON CHILD CARE FACILI-
5	TIES.
6	(a) Study.—The Secretary of the Treasury shall
7	conduct a study of the secondary mortgage markets to de-
8	termine—
9	(1) whether such a market exists for purchase
10	of mortgages on new and rehabilitated child care fa-
11	cilities and mortgages for acquisition and refi-
12	nancing debt of existing child care facilities, includ-
13	ing mortgages eligible for insurance under sections
14	223(h) and 257 of the National Housing Act (as
15	added by this Act);
16	(2) whether such a market would affect the
17	availability of credit available for development of
18	child care facilities, particularly facilities located in
19	areas for which the President declared that a major
20	disaster exists, in accordance with section 401 of the
21	Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency
22	Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170), as a consequence
23	of Hurricane Katrina or Rita of 2005, or would
24	lower development costs of such facilities; and

1	(3) the extent to which such a market or other
2	activities to provide credit enhancement for loans for
3	child care facilities, particularly for facilities located
4	in the areas referred to in paragraph (2), is needed
5	to meet the demand for such facilities.
6	(b) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date
7	of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Treasury
8	shall submit to Congress a report regarding the results
9	of the study conducted under this section.
10	SEC. 7. TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE GRANTS.
11	(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:
12	(1) CHILD CARE FACILITY.—The term "child
13	care facility' has the meaning given that term in
14	section 257(a) of the National Housing Act, as
15	added by section 3 of this Act.
16	(2) Eligible intermediary.—The term "eli-
17	gible intermediary" means a intermediary organiza-
18	tion that—
19	(A) is described in section 501(c)(3) of the
20	Internal Revenue Code of 1986;
21	(B) is exempt from taxation under section
22	501(a) of such Code; and
23	(C) has demonstrated experience in—
24	(i) financing the construction and ren-
25	ovation of physical facilities:

1	(ii) providing technical and financial
2	assistance to child care providers or other
3	similar entities;
4	(iii) working with businesses (whether
5	small or large); and
6	(iv) securing private sources for cap-
7	ital financing; and
8	(3) ELIGIBLE RECIPIENT.—The term "eligible
9	recipient" means any—
10	(A) existing or start-up center-based or
11	home-based child care provider; and
12	(B) organization in the process of estab-
13	lishing a center-based or home-based child care
14	program or otherwise seeking to provide child
15	care services.
16	(4) Equipment.—The term "equipment" has
17	the meaning given that term in section 257(a) of the
18	National Housing Act, as added by section 3 of this
19	Act.
20	(b) Grant Authority.—The Secretary of Housing
21	and Urban Development, in consultation with the Sec-
22	retary of Health and Human Services, may award grants
23	on a competitive basis in accordance with this section to
24	eligible intermediaries for use in accordance with sub-
25	sections (e) and (f).

1 (c) APPLICATIONS.—To be eligible to receive a grant under this section an eligible intermediary shall submit to 3 the Secretary an application, in such form and containing such information as the Secretary may require. 4 5 (d) Priority.— In awarding grants under this section the Secretary shall give a priority to applicants under 6 7 subsection (c) that serve low-income or rural areas. 8 (e) Use of Funds.— 9 (1) REVOLVING LOAN FUND.—Each eligible 10 intermediary that receives a grant under this section 11 shall deposit the grant amount into a child care re-12 volving loan fund established by the eligible inter-13 mediary. 14 (2) Eligible Assistance.—Subject to sub-15 section (f), from amounts deposited into the revolv-16 ing loan fund under paragraph (1), each eligible 17 intermediary shall provide to eligible recipients— 18 (A) financial assistance (in the form of 19 loans, grants, investments, guarantees, interest 20 subsidies, and other appropriate forms of assist-21 ance) for the construction of new child care fa-22 cilities located in an area for which the Presi-23 dent declared that a major disaster exists, in 24 accordance with section 401 of the Robert T.

Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assist-

- ance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170), as a consequence of
 Hurricane Katrina or Rita of 2005, for planning of such child care facilities, and for acquisition or improvement of such child care facilities or equipment for such child care facilities;
 and
 - (B) technical assistance in obtaining public or private financing for such construction, planning, acquisition, and improvement of such child care facilities, including developing and implementing financing resources, options, and plans for such eligible recipients.
 - (3) Loan Repayments and investment proceeds.—Any amount received by an eligible intermediary from an eligible recipient in the form of loan principal repayment or investment proceeds shall be deposited into the child care revolving fund of the eligible intermediary for redistribution to other eligible recipients in accordance with this section.
- 21 (f) Allocation of Funds.—Of the amounts dis-22 tributed from the revolving loan fund of an eligible inter-23 mediary under subsection (e)(2) in each fiscal year—
- 24 (1) not less than 50 percent shall be used for 25 financial assistance pursuant to subparagraph (A) of

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- subsection (e)(2), except that the amount made available to any eligible recipient under this para-
- 3 graph may not exceed 40 percent of the total costs
- 3 graph may not exceed 40 percent of the total costs
- 4 incurred by that eligible recipient in connection with
- 5 the construction, planning, acquisition, or improve-
- 6 ment assisted; and
- 7 (2) the amount remaining after distribution
- 8 under paragraph (1), shall be used to provide tech-
- 9 nical assistance pursuant to subparagraph (B) of
- subsection (e)(2).
- 11 (g) Davis Bacon Act.—The Act of March 3, 1931
- 12 (popularly known as the Davis-Bacon Act) shall apply to
- 13 actions taken under this Act.
- 14 (h) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
- 15 authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
- 16 \$1,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2006 through 2008.

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